

Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 PC-10 DRC-01 /125 W

----- 042588

R 110630Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8457

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 4027

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT PGOV ET

SUBJ: DISSIDENCE GAINS XTH MECHANIZED BRIGADE

REF: USDAO 0232APR74 DTG 101220ZAPR74

1. REPORTS REACHING EMBASSY, (SOURCED INDEPENDENTLY FROM THOSE OF REF REPORT) ASSERT THAT TENTH MECH, THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS UNIT OF THE IEMF, SUCCUMBED TO DISSIDENCE AFTERNOON APRIL 10. ACCORDING TO THESE REPORTS, UNIT'S NCO'S AND JUNIOR OFFICERS ARRESTED THEIR SENIORS AS WELL AS "SOME CIVILIANS" IN JIGJIGA, AND "TOOK OVER TOWN." A CURFEW WAS THEREUPON IMPOSED.

2. WE STILL LACK DETAILED INFORMATION ON DEMANDS OF DISSIDENTS. WE KNOW THAT NEWLY ASSIGNED BRIGADE COMMANDER LESS THAN POPULAR WITH TENTH MECH CADRE, WHO WANTED GEN. GETACHEW'S EXEC TO SUCCEED HIM IN THE TOP SLOT AFTER HIS TRANSFER. WE HEAR THAT MOVEMENT, AT LEAST IN PART, AIMED AT OFFICIALS IN LOCAL CUSTOMS FACILITY ALLEGED TO BE CORRUPT.

3. COMMENT: ANTI-CORRUPTION THEME SUPPORTED BY REPORTED ARREST OF
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CIVILIANS. WE NOTE THAT TENTH MECH TROUBLE SEEMS CAREFULLY TIMED

TO FOLLOW THIRD DIVISION'S SUCCESSFUL PRESSURE ON IEG TO REMOVE
DEPUTY CHIEF STAFF IEMF HAILU BAYKEDEGN, REFLECTING APPARENT
CONTINUING -- AND THUS FAR GENERALLY EFFECTIVE -- EFFORT KEEP
ENDALKACHEW ADMINISTRATION OFF BALANCE. ALTHOUGH WE THINK THAT
ANY MILITARY MOVE BY SOMALIS WOULD QUICKLY RALLY TENTH MECH, IT
SEEMS SIGNIFICANT THAT THIS KEY UNIT NOW PROVING AS WILLING AS
REST OF STRUCTURE TO DEMONSTRATE ITS COMMITMENT TO REFORM. WYMAN

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